

Safety Tips

Office of Safety and Mission Assurance

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NASA's Hierarchy of Safety

Do you know NASA's Hierarchy of Safety? It's the list of beneficiaries of NASA's focus on safety and health. They include the public, astronauts and pilots, employees, and high value equipment.



Public, because their safety is paramount
Astronauts and Pilots, because they expose themselves to risk in high hazard flight activities

Employees, because it is our moral and legal obligation

High Value Equipment, because we are stewards of the public's trust

Keep in mind that safety is everyone's responsibility. Safety should never be

regarded as the job of the Safety Office or someone else. See <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/safety> for more information.

We are all responsible for safety.

Driving and Cell Phones

You know that drinking and driving don't mix. What about talking on the phone and driving?

Researchers at the University of Toronto found that **the risk of having a traffic accident while using a cellular phone is the same as driving while drunk!** People who use cellular phones are about four to five times more likely to have an accident than people who don't use phones while driving. The study said, "Telephones that allow the hands to be free did not appear to be safer than hand-held telephones. This may indicate that the main factor in most motor vehicle collisions is a driver's inattention rather than dexterity."

To avoid being distracted, don't talk on a cell phone while driving. If you need to make a phone call, wait until you can pull over. If the phone rings while you're driving, let a passenger take the call. Some cellular phones now offer voice mail or caller ID so you can return the call when it's safe to talk.



Direct questions, comments, or tips for a future issue to gnews@hq.nasa.gov.

Protecting the Public, Astronauts and Pilots, NASA Workforce, and High-Value Property and Equipment